

(6) *Colouration*. This is so variable that it carries little if any weight in establishing many species, and I find *cyanocinctus* from Indian Coasts remarkably variable.

Dr. Malcolm Smith may be perfectly correct in his view that the species he has described as *H. siamensis* is valid, but I think it rests on a very insecure basis, and is not supported by the facts I have explained above.

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BANGALORE, 21st July 1919.

No. XXX.—NOTES ON SOME RECENT ADDITIONS TO OUR SOCIETY'S SNAKE COLLECTION.

On my return to India this year I was shown, while passing through Bombay, a number of interesting snakes, which had been received by the Society during the last few years. These had already been identified by Mr. Prater and two were recorded by him in the previous number of the Journal, but nevertheless I have included them in these notes as I have been able to add some additional information.

TYPHLOPS JERDONI (BOULENGER) (= *TYPHLOPS DIVERSICEPS* (ANNANDALE))

A well preserved specimen of this little known, and seemingly rare snake, was presented to the Society's collection by Mr. J. M. D. Mackenzie from Pegu. As all the other known specimens are from Hills, it would be interesting to have further information concerning the exact locality in Pegu (District?). The specimen accords well with Boulenger's description (Fann. Brit. Ind. 1890, p. 238), except in the following points:—

The rostral is more than one-fourth, but less than one-third the breadth of the head at the eyes. The nasals shields just meet behind the rostral. The præocular touches the 3rd labial only. The diameter of the body is about $\frac{1}{35}$ the total length, the latter being $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches. In a later description of the snake, Boulenger modifies his original observations, in a corrigendum (Cat. Snakes, Brit. Mus. Vol. I, 1893, p. 418) showing that the præocular touches only the third labial, and it may be remarked that this is the only Indian species of the genus that shows this peculiarity.

In 1891, Sclater (List. Snakes, Ind. Mus., p. 2) reported a specimen from Buxa Doors. Among collections of snakes belonging to the Indian Museum, and submitted to me at various times by Dr. Annandale for identification, I was able to examine, and confirm the identification of Sclater's specimen. I found another labelled Lashio, N. Shan States. The examination of Annandale's type of *T. diversiceps* from Pashighat, Abor Hill (Rec. Ind. Mus. Vol. VIII, p. 44 and plate I) shows that the specimen is a very typical one of *T. jerdoni*. The scale rows reported as 18 are in reality 22. The anterior nasal touches the first and second labials, not the first only as reported. The præocular touches the 3rd labial only. The diameter of the body is about $\frac{1}{35}$ the total length. In this Journal (Vol. XIX, p. 338), I reported a specimen from the Darjeeling neighbourhood (Pashok or Tindharia) $9\frac{1}{4}$ inches long.

The habitat at present known for the species is Eastern Himalayas, Hills of Assam, Burma as far East as the N. Shan States.

COLUBER (ABLABES) PAVO (ANNANDALE).

A very nice little specimen of this rare snake described in 1912 by Dr. Annandale (Rec. Ind. Mus. 1912, Vol. VIII, p. 47, and plate) from a single specimen captured in the Abor Hills has recently enriched the Society's

collection. This was found at Kindat on the East bank of the Chindwin River, Upper Burma, and therefore considerably extends the habitat. This specimen differs from the type in having the scale rows 21 two heads-lengths behind the head, 21 in midbody, and 17 two heads-lengths before the vent. The ventrals are 225, and the subcaudals 75. The tail is possibly very slightly deficient. The supralabials are 8, the 4th and 5th touching the eye on the left side, in this specimen. The left side agrees with the type. The posterior extension of the post-nasal so well shown in Dr. Annandale's figure, suggesting a confluence of this shield with the loreal, is again exactly repeated in the Burmese specimen.

I find the maxillary teeth 17 (possibly 18) on the left side very gradually and slightly decreasing posteriorly. The mandibular teeth are enlarged anteriorly. On these dental characters the species would appear to have better claims to inclusion under *Coluber* than *Ablabes*. On superficial characters too it appears to me to have closer affinities to *C. porphyraceus* than any *Ablabes*. The ventrals are too numerous for *Ablabes*, and accord with *Coluber*, and the scale rows accord with *Coluber* rather than *Ablabes*.

CALAMARIA PAVIMENTATA (D. & B.).

A nice little specimen of this uncommon snake was received from Mrs. Jackson, from Tura in the Garo Hills, Assam. The previously known habitat (China, Cochin, China, Siam, Java, Burma) is thus considerably extended.

The lepidosis is very typical. A præocular is present. Ventrals number 200, and subcaudals 16. The belly is uniform yellowish.

DIPSADOMORPHUS MULTIFASCIATUS (BLYTH).

A very juvenile specimen, probably a hatchling, measuring $11\frac{1}{4}$ inches, was killed at Naini Tal, and presented by Mr. G. O. Allen.

It is not such an uncommon snake in the Western Himalayas as records might suggest. In the Indian Museum there are specimens from Subathu, Mussoorie, and Naini Tal; it has been recorded by Anderson from Simla, and I have had two specimens from the Naini Tal District, two from Mussoorie, and no less than seven reached me in 1914, from Muktesar. It would appear therefore to be as common in the Western as in the Eastern Himalayas, and to favour an altitude above 5,000 feet.

HYDROPHIS CERULESCENS (SHAW).

The receipt of a gravid ♀ from Alibag, donor Mr. Alcock, affords useful information of the breeding season. It was captured in June 1917, in the very month and year that I captured the first specimen to shed any light on the breeding season. My note appeared in this Journal in Vol. XXV, page 308. Mr. Alcock's specimen measured 2 feet 5 inches, and contained 5 embryos in an advanced stage of development, though not sufficiently advanced to make a study of the lepidosis possible. The brood comprised ♂ $4\frac{3}{8}$ ", ♂ $4\frac{1}{4}$ ", ♂ $4\frac{3}{8}$ ", ♀ $4\frac{1}{8}$ ", and ♀ $4\frac{3}{8}$ ".

I have now examined well over 60 of this common snake, and it is perhaps remarkable that only 5 have proved to be gravid. A specimen in the Indian Museum 2 feet $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches long contained 5 eggs. Another in the same collection 3 eggs, and a third 6 fetuses. No dates of capture were available with any of these. The specimen I recorded to which an allusion has been already made, was 2 feet 4 inches long, and contained 4 fetuses, one retained from a previous brood. It is evidently not a prolific species, the young varying from 3 to 6.

HYDROPHIS MAMILLARIS (DAUDIN).

A fine specimen of this rare sea-snake is an important addition to the Society's collection. It was sent by Mr. Alcock from Alibag. It is a ♀ measuring $28\frac{1}{4}$ inches.

The scale rows two headlengths behind the head are 28, in midbody 37 and two headlengths before the vent 35. The ventrals number about 339. The neck is about one-third the greatest depth of the body.

There are 10 posterior maxillary teeth. 40 black bands encircle the body, and these are about twice the breadth of the intervals. They are confluent ventrally as high up as midcosta posteriorly. The tail is completely black.

I have seen only seven other specimens; four in our Society's collection, two in the British Museum, and one in the museum of the Royal College of Surgeons, London.

HYDROPHIS ORNATA (GRAY).

A well grown ♀ specimen of this uncommon sea-snake was acquired from Major Gharpurey, captured at Jask in the Persian Gulf.

The scales two headlengths behind the head are 32, at midbody 41, and two headlengths before the vent 42; subimbricate anteriorly, juxtaposed in the middle and posteriorly. The ventrals are about 360. Otherwise it is a very typical specimen. The posterior maxillary teeth number 11 on the left side. It is just the kind of specimen that so many herpetologists would make the type of a new species, on the abnormally large ventral count (210-300 Boulenger), and the abnormally low number of anterior scale rows (35 to 42 Boulenger), and on this account it would find a more fitting resting place on the British Museum shelves than in our Society's collection.

HYDROPHIS VIPERINA (SCHMIDT).

A fine ♂ was presented to the collection by Sir Charles Bailey, captured on the Orissa Coast.

The scale rows two headlengths behind the head are 33, at midbody 49, and two headlengths before the vent 42. Ventrals about 276. Here again the numbers of scale rows (27 to 29 on neck, and 37 to 43 on the body, Boulenger), would tempt some to pronounce this is new species. The fact that the prefrontal does not touch the second labial that the frontal is as broad as long combined with the extraordinary breadth of the anterior ventrals, (fully 3 times that of the last costal row) leave no doubt as to its identity. The posterior maxillary teeth number 5 on the left side.

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No. XXXI.—OCCURRENCE OF *STICHOPTHALMA* *GODFREYI* (ROTHS.)

A specimen of this *Stichopthalma* was taken at Taungshum Taung, Tavoy district, on the 17th May 1917, and came into my possession. It was identified by Mr. Ernest Swinhoe who informs me that the type specimen was taken by Mr. Godfrey in Siam and is now in the South Kensington Museum. Though I visited Tavoy in February last I was not successful in getting any, but a forewing of one, that had probably been eaten by some bird, was found, and pointed to the fact that others were about. I enclose a painting showing the upperside, to full scale. On the underside the markings resemble *S. camedava* to some extent but there are only two